



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

November 22, 2005

## ICE ARRESTS 21 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. John, U.S. Virgin Island—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that 21 citizens of Haiti were arrested here yesterday for illegally entering the United States.

The arrests are as a result of a successful joint operation between ICE, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the USVI Police Department.

The 21 Haitians arrived in two groups. The first group of 12—eight males, three females and one infant—the parents of the infant were served with a notice to appear and remain with family members in St. Thomas, USVI. The other nine were processed by ICE agents and transferred to the ICE detention center in Aguadilla where they await their removal from the United States.

A second group of nine illegal immigrants from Haiti were traveling in a van when the U.S. Virgin Island police stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle was arrested and faces criminal charges. The illegal immigrants were turned over to ICE for processing and removal from the United States.

“We are sending a clear and strong message to those who think the islands of St. John, St. Thomas and St. Croix are an easy way to come illegally to the United States,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “ICE will not tolerate this flagrant violation of our immigration laws and will continue using all our resources to detect, apprehend and remove from the United States those who choose to come here illegally instead of using the available legal ways to do so.”

Last week, ICE arrested 25 illegal immigrants from Haiti, Dominica, St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*

